

The Tippecanoe County Drainage Board met in regular session in the Community Meeting Room of the Tippecanoe County Office Building on August 3, 1983 at 9:00 a.m.

In attendance: Bruce Osborn, Board Chairman; Eugene Moore, Boardmember; Sue Reser, Boardmember; Michael Spencer, Surveyor; and Frances Bates, Secretary.

I Gosma Drain - Mr. Tom Carter, White County Commissioner

Mr. Tom Carter, White County Commissioner, appeared before the Board to discuss future plans for the Gosma Drain which empties into the Herman Beutler ditch. He reported that White County landowners had discussed the future work on the Gosma to include the tile and outlet in White County, but not to involve the Beutler drain. The Gosma drains approximately 120 acres in Tippecanoe County and 1000 acres in White County, with over 80% of this ditch being in White County. Mr. Carter requested that the Board express their preference as to options, these options being:

1. Tippecanoe County to waive the right to be represented on a joint board and permit White County to do needed work on the Gosma.
2. Tippecanoe County and White County to form a joint board with work on the Gosma to be a joint project.

Mr. Carter noted that White County perceived the Gosma as a drainage problem in need of solution, but did not want to become involved in the Beutler drain due to objections voiced by White County landowners.

Mr. Osborn requested that Mr. Carter elaborate on the proposals that had been made and rejected.

Mr. Carter reported that the previous proposal had been to clean the Herman Beutler ditch from its beginning to the west line of Parkinson's property (property being previously owned by Gosma). The original proposal was to stay on property lines with an open ditch running north, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Morehouse Road. The new open ditch was to be approximately one mile long - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in Tippecanoe County and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in White County, to intersect the large tile and thus drain the area. The large tile to be further broken down with drainage into the open ditch. The tile to serve the remaining landowners, with the open ditch to serve landowners on the west. The watershed area noted to be approximately 1100 acres.

Due to the absence of legal counsel, Mr. Osborn requested that Mr. Carter submit in writing to the Board the White County position on the Gosma as expressed in these proceedings. Mr. Osborn reminded Mr. Carter that a considerable sum had already been spent by Tippecanoe County in defending the Board's position in previous proceedings. In fairness to landowners in both Tippecanoe and White Counties, Mr. Osborn stated that the written request submitted by White County would be considered and a decision rendered.

Mr. Carter restated the White County concern with only the drainage area to the north, and questioned if Tippecanoe County was considering work on the Beutler drain on the lower end.

Mr. Spencer stated that including the Beutler ditch lower end in the work would be a necessity.

Mr. Osborn noted the involvement of the Burnett's Creek problem; the solution to be the creation of a court drain. However, this solution to be a sizeable task with many legalities involved. Mr. Osborn stated the Board's position to cooperate as much as possible after receipt of the written request. Due to interested parties and problems involved, no decision of the Tippecanoe County Drainage Board on the Gosma drain could be given at this time.

Mr. Carter clarified that White County plans could not be made until Tippecanoe County had reached a decision due to 80% of the ditch being in White County only if the Beutler ditch was not included.

Mr. Spencer stated that Drainage Board's legal counsel had advised that the Gosma should be considered a branch of the Beutler, not a separate drain.

Mr. Carter asked if maintenance on the Beutler included the Gosma.

Mr. Spencer reported that when the maintenance fund was set up on the Beutler that it did not include that portion north and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Morehouse Road, however the legal description of the Beutler does include that portion past Morehouse Road. Mr. Spencer and Mr. Carter agreed that the Gosma was a branch of the Beutler. Mr. Spencer stated that branches had been reconstructed in the past without involving the entire ditch watershed. However, Mr. Spencer could not state whether Mr. Hoffman, Drainage Board legal counsel, would consider this entire area as one watershed area or not. Mr. Spencer could not state whether notification of hearings, etc., would involve the entire watershed or not.

Mr. Carter suggested that work done by surveyors and engineers on preliminaries be mutually agreeable before assessments were decided. The decision whether a portion (Gosma) or the entire ditch (Beutler) would need to be done to be decided by the Tippecanoe County Surveyor. Mr. Carter stated the need for clarification and organization before proceeding, and suggested the possibility that Tippecanoe County waive their rights on the Gosma and form a joint board with White County for work on the Beutler. He noted that there was no question that the entire ditch system needed work. He reported that White County set up maintenance funds based on benefits when possible, especially on a large watershed. A flat rate being easier to set up and used by White County on small watershed areas. However on large watersheds (this project included), White County would recommend assessment by benefits. Mr. Carter confirmed that a request concerning the tile portion to the north would be sent, with the decision as to further work on the Beutler to be negotiable. He noted that work on the bridge at the farm entrance on the Beutler may be extensive, but was needed to maintain the bridge.

Mr. Kent Parkinson, property owner, declined comment.

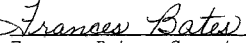
Sue Reser made the motion to adjourn the Regular August Drainage Board Meeting. Eugene Moore seconded the motion.

The Regular Drainage Board Meeting of August 3, 1983 was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.


Bruce Osborn, Board Chairman


Eugene Moore, Boardmember


Sue Reser, Boardmember

ATTEST 
Frances Bates, Secretary